Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation

A Proposal for the Survey, Monitoring, and Management of Greater Sage-grouse Populations and Habitat on the Duck Valley Indian Reservation

Program Summary:

The Greater Sage-grouse (Centrocercus urophasiamus, hereafter referred to as sage-grouse) is an at-risk species important to the cultural and ceremonial tradition of the Shoshone-Paiute people. The Duck Valley Indian Reservation (DVIR) is an isolated and remote area that presents a data-gap in the range-wide assessment of sage-grouse populations and habitat; lack of information also limits guidance to Tribal leadership for land management plans and wildlife ordinances with regards to sage-grouse as well as Tribal participation in regional sage-grouse conservation efforts.

With USFWS TWG funding, the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes (Tribes) Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department (FWP) will develop a complete inventory and assessment of sage-grouse populations and their breeding, nesting, brooding and winter habitat. This data will be used for monitoring, expanding Tribal capacity to be more responsive to Reservation management needs, and to cultivate alliances with other governmental and non-governmental agencies. To facilitate monitoring and management efforts, data will also be stored and evaluated in a GIS database for mapping purposes. All sage-grouse information will be compiled in a Tribal Sage-grouse Management and Conservation Plan, critical for use as guidance in the revision of the Tribal Hunting Ordinance, the development of a Tribal Grazing Ordinance and Range Management Plan, the development of the Tribal Wildfire Management Plan, and Tribal participation in the development of the range-wide sage-grouse conservation assessment and action plans. Finally, data gathering and sage-grouse management efforts will be used as an educational tool for future generations of Shoshone-Paiutes.

This project is proposed as part of a longer term 3-year initiative; however, if funding is not available or awarded in future years, this project's objectives and benefits stand on their own.